

**CLAIMS:**

1. A method for lowering a risk factor in a patient, by identifying that said patient suffers from said risk factor and administering to said patient an effective amount of a preparation comprising licorice extract which is water-insoluble and  
5 free from glycyrrhizinic acid, wherein said risk factor is selected from blood pressure, blood glucose concentration, LDL susceptibility to retention, LDL susceptibility to aggregation, blood total cholesterol and LDL levels, and blood tryglicerides and VLDL concentration.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said risk factor is selected from  
10 blood pressure, blood glucose concentration, serum LDL susceptibility to aggregation and serum LDL susceptibility to retention.
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said risk factor is selected from blood pressure and glucose concentration.
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said risk factor is selected from  
15 LDL susceptibility to aggregation and LDL susceptibility to retention.
5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said risk factor is blood glucose concentration.
6. A method for treating inflammation in a patient, by identifying that said patient suffers from inflammation and administering to said patient an effective  
20 amount of a preparation comprising licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid.
7. A method for simultaneously lowering at least two risk factors in a patient, by identifying that said patient suffers from said at least two risk factors and administering to said patient an effective amount of a preparation comprising  
25 licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, wherein each of said at least two risk factors is selected from blood pressure, blood glucose concentration, LDL susceptibility to retention, LDL susceptibility to aggregation, blood total cholesterol and LDL levels, and blood tryglicerides and VLDL concentration.

8. A method for treating a patient suffering from high blood tryglicerides and high LDL levels without significantly decreasing the HDL level, by identifying that said patient suffers from high blood tryglicerides and high LDL levels tsimultaneously lowering blood tryglicerides and LDL levels, and administering to  
5 said patient an effective amount of a preparation comprising licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid.

9. A method for treating a patient suffering from a condition, by identifying that said patient suffers from said condition and administering to said patient an effective amount of a preparation comprising licorice extract which is  
10 water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, wherein said condition is selected from aterosclerotic diseases, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, chronic renal failure, carotid artery stenosis, coronary heart diseases, hypercholesterolemia, and hypertriglyceridemia.

10. A method for preventing a patient from suffering from a condition, by  
15 identifying that said patient is in a high risk to suffer from said condition, and administering to said patient an effective amount of a preparation comprising licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, wherein said condition is selected from aterosclerotic diseases, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, chronic renal failure, carotid artery stenosis, coronary heart diseases,  
20 hypercholesterolemia, and hypertriglyceridemia.